



Division of Insurance

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONSUMER ADVISORY: FLOOD INSURANCE WAIVER FOR WALDO CANYON
AND HIGH PARK RESIDENTS EXPIRES SOON**

Denver – Coloradans living in and around the Waldo Canyon and High Park burn areas are nearing a deadline for buying flood insurance that could go into effect immediately.

Typically, flood insurance policies include a 30-day waiting period after the policy's purchase date. However, a July 10 waiver granted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) allows those policies to go into effect without the 30-day wait. The waiver contains a caveat that if a flood occurs and causes damage, the floodwaters must have come from federal lands affected by a wildfire. Eligibility for the waiver will be determined on a case-by-case basis after a loss has occurred, according to FEMA.

The waiver is the result of an amendment from Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) and Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-NM) placed into the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, signed into law by President Obama on July 6.

According to FEMA, flood insurance must be purchased no later than 60 days after the fire containment date. The deadline for purchasing flood insurance in the High Park burn area is midnight, Wednesday, August 29.

The Waldo Canyon fire deadline for purchasing flood insurance is midnight, Saturday, September 8.

"Flood damage is *not* covered under standard homeowners' policies," said Commissioner of Insurance Jim Riesberg, "Areas downstream from the areas damaged by the Waldo Canyon and High Park wildfires are at higher risk for flooding, so the time to purchase flood insurance is now." Riesberg met last Saturday with residents of Waldo Canyon, and he will attend a community forum on wildfire insurance claims in Fort Collins on Wednesday, August 29.

For information on flood insurance or to find a flood insurance carrier, contact the [National Flood Insurance Program](#) at 1-800-427-2419.

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and assists consumers and other stakeholders with insurance issues.*

*[DORA](#) is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a
fair and competitive business environment in Colorado.
Consumer protection is our mission.*